FLOWER COMICS α
Petit Comicフラワーコミックスアルファ

円城寺マキ

Maki Enjoji presents

Ideally 7

~Happy Marriage!?~

人は如何なる理由で結婚するのか？

FLOWER COMICS α
Petit Comic

円城寺マキ

小学館
FCα4004

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愛妻家（？）な夫・北斗に惑され、順風満帆な夫婦生活を送る千和。

大学の先輩で現上司の朝比奈とぶつかることも多いが、千和は北斗に近付くことに喜びを覚えていた。

だが肝心の彼の仕事が忙しくなり…!?

こんなのアリ!?なウエディングラブストーリー第7巻！

彼女はもっと北斗のことを理解しようと経済の勉強を始める。

Petit Comic フラワーコミックス アルファ

Petit Comic & Flower Comics

Iとcとy

～Happy Marriage!?～ 7

円城寺マキ

Steady
~Happy Marriage!?~

CHARACTER

SOUMA TAEKO

Secretary attached to the president. Looks young, but is actually 56 years old.

ASAHINA KANAME

Chiwa's university Senpai and current boss at the company.

STORY

Chiwa's motto: "I absolutely do not dream of men!
I will live a steady life!" ... or at least it was.
But her circumstances were completely overturned
when she married the president of her company Hokuto be-
cause she had to pay off a debt her father left her.

Even though it was a contract-marriage,
Chiwa fell in love with Hokuto. They even finally had sex for
the first time and "became real husband and wife."
Currently, Chiwa is studying so that she can understand what
Hokuto's job really involves. She is also doing her best to put up
with her ex-university senpai and current boss, Asahina,
despite their frequent quarrels. Is it any wonder she
eventually collapses..?!

Ichido-ki

~Happy Marriage!?~

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Petit Comic Flower Comics Alfa

25th Step

Would you shackle me?

GREAT...

DO YOUR BEST. AND DON'T MAKE TROUBLE.

JUST IMAGINE!

I AM IN CHARGE OF THE NEXT PARTNERSHIP WITH MAMIYA ENTERPRISES!

Here's your soup.

WE HAVE SECURED STABLE SUPPLY PIPES.

I DON'T THINK SO. NOTHING IS CERTAIN, OF COURSE, BUT...

DO YOU THINK IT WILL HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON PETROL PRICES AGAIN?

SURE! AH, BY THE WAY, DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE NEW SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST? ?

HEY, CHIWA!

WAKE UP!

AH!

YES, YES, THIS MORNING'S FINANCIAL PAGES INDICATED THAT...

...WA...

IT'S TWO IN THE MORNING!

?

?

WHY ARE YOU SLEEPING HERE?!

TWO... TWO HOKUTOS..?

WHO'S THE REAL ONE?

WHAT ARE YOU BLABBING ABOUT?

SO IT WAS A DREAM ...

BUT JUST NOW, WE WERE DISCUSSING THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST OVER BREAKFAST...

WELCOME HOME...

I MUST HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP WHILE WAITING FOR YOU.

IN WHICH PARALLEL UNIVERSE?

You're drool-ing, btw.

Hokuto is very busy with his work again.

BUT UNLESS I DO THIS, WE WON'T EVEN TALK TO EACH OTHER FOR DAYS ON END.

WHAT IF YOU COL-LAPSED AGAIN?

GOOD, BUT YOU'LL RUIN YOUR HEALTH LIKE THIS.

I'm not even sure when he gets back home and when he leaves again.

He said they've started on a new enterprise. It feels as if he's never home, day or night.

Should I get a hot-water bottle?

...

ALTHOUGH THE WARM BLANKET ALWAYS ESCAPES ME, BECAUSE OF CERTAIN SOMEONE.

DON'T BE STUPID. WE SLEEP TOGETHER EVERY NIGHT.

IS THIS WHAT THEY CALL "LIVING WITH A STRANGER"..?

But I miss Hokuto so badly that I started dreaming of him.

Doesn't it bother him that he has so little contact with me..?

CHIWA.

I know I come second.

AND HOW DO YOU FEEL, HOKUTO?

I'M FINE.

DRAG

DRAG

DRAG

IN A WEEK, THINGS WILL CALM DOWN A BIT.

THEN I'LL HAVE MORE TIME TO SPEND WITH YOU AND HELP YOU WITH YOUR STUDY.

When he puts it like that,

I have no choice but to clench my teeth and wait.

THE BUSY PERIOD FOR OUR COMPANY IS OVER.

SO FROM NOW ON...

I CAN HAVE SOME REST...

sigh

WHAT ABOUT "WHAT AM I TO YOU?" OR MAYBE "WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT - ME OR YOUR WORK?"

NO!

I COULDN'T SAY SUCH THINGS...

I JUST THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO ASK ME THESE THINGS.

WHAT?! EH?!

WHY SO SUD-DENLY?!

EH?!

CAPRI-CIOUS, EH

fidget

SO I CAN'T ALLOW MYSELF TO BE CAPRI-CIOUS...

fidget

AFTER ALL.

fidget

I UNDER-STAND YOUR POSITION

fidget

EH?!

CAN YOU SPARE ENOUGH TIME?!

I'LL MANAGE

IT'S JUST A FEW HOURS

HOW ABOUT

LUNCH TOGETHER NEXT WEEK-END?

IN THAT CASE .

WAAAAH!!!

Joy

Glomp♥

THAT'S WHY I DON'T THINK ABOUT THINGS LIKE

"WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT - ME OR YOUR WORK?"

PICK A RESTAURANT YOU LIKE

YES!

...but he made me understand he treasures me.

I don't know if he needs me...

EH?

WHAT?

HM? NOTHING

WHISPER

REALLY

GOOD WIFE

That's why I'm all right.

All my worries were groundless.

I-MAX

FRENCH RESTAU-RANT, MAYBE?

大人ダイニング 東京

Excited

♫

BUT CHINESE SOUNDS GOOD, TOO

AH, I'VE SEEN THIS RESTAU-RANT ON TV!

HEY!

HOW WAS IT?!

I'M GOING THERE WITH MY HUS-BAND THIS WEE—

HM? "MON ANGE" ?

I'VE BEEN THERE

YOU HAVE?

IT'S ALREADY FIVE PAST ONE, YOU KNOW.

S-SORRY!

PANIC

I'LL GET THIS READY RIGHT AWAY!

PANIC

F-
FORGET
WHAT I
SAID.

Asahina-san returned to being the possessive, stern boss he was.

I think he resents the thought I'm married to the boss of the client-company...

...KEND...

AH!

ALTHOUGH, OF COURSE,

NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU LAZE ON THE JOB, I HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO REPRIMAND YOU.

I know this situation is hard to handle, but even so...

ASAHINA-SAN!

I know how you feel!

But that's no excuse to talk to me like this!

I WANT YOU TO STOP TREATING ME LIKE THIS

I THINK I SHOULD MAKE THIS CLEAR ONCE AND FOR ALL.

I KNOW MY OWN POSITION IS DIFFICULT

I UNDER-STAND THAT I'M CAUSING SAKURABA-SENPAI AN INCONVE-NIENCE, TOO

BUT I REALLY WANT TO WORK HERE.

SO PLEASE, TREAT ME LIKE ANY OTHER NORMAL EMPLOYEE OF THE COMPANY!

I ASKED SAKURABA-SENPAI WHY YOU WANT TO WORK HERE

HE SAID YOU'RE DOING IT FOR YOUR FATHER

YOU'VE BEEN SUFFERING BECAUSE OF YOUR FATHER

ALL THE TIME THAT I'VE KNOWN YOU,

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.

I'LL TREAT YOU LIKE A NORMAL EMPLOYEE

ALL RIGHT, I UNDERSTAND I'LL STOP WITH THE PREJUDICES

TO TREAT YOU LIKE A NORMAL EMPLOYEE

WHAT?

YOUR HUSBAND ASKED ME THE SAME THING.

ACTUALLY,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

I'LL DO MY BEST NOT TO DISAPPOINT YOU!

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'D DO THAT..!

HE REALLY DID?!

Looks like I'm on his mind pretty often.

I THOUGHT HE'D BREAK OFF THE CONTRACT!

SERI-OUSLY?!

EH? SHOULD HE?

?

THAT MAN DIDN'T HE SAY ANY-THING ABOUT ME?

AH, HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT ME! HE-HE-HE!

EH? IS IT THAT OBVI-OUS?

MORE OR LESS

Even when we're not together

Hokuto really thinks about me

DID SOME-THING GOOD HAPPEN TO YOU TODAY?

HEHEHE! KIND OF, YES

I MADE UP WITH ASAHINA-SAN

IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, HOKUTO!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WEREN'T YOU ON BAD TERMS WITH H.M?

I THINK IT WAS JUST HARD FOR HIM TO TREAT THE WIFE OF A BUSINESS-PARTNER AS HIS SUBORDINATE

AH, NOT REALLY

BUT YOU BOWED YOUR HEAD TO HIM FOR ME.

THANK YOU! NOW IT'S MUCH EASIER TO WORK WITH HIM.

AH... EHM.

"Bowed my head" Not really..

AH, YOU'RE NOT WORRIED ANYMORE, ARE YOU?

ASAHINA-SAN IS DEVOTED TO HIS WORK AND IS ACTUALLY AN EASY-GOING PERSON, SO HE MAKES A VERY GOOD BOSS TO WORK WITH

IMAGINING YOU BOWING AND SAYING "TAKE CARE OF THE WIFE" MAKES ME BLUSH!

THAT HE THINKS YOU RESEMBLE HIM IN A WAY, HOKU—

I WOULD HAVE COME RUNNING SOONER."

"BUT AT SUCH A TIME IF IT WERE ME

SPEAKING OF WHICH, HE TOLD ME BEFORE

HOLD

OH!

I'M SLEEPY.

I WAS GOING TO SAY I DON'T THINK YOU DO

AH WHATEVER

LET'S SLEEP.

Squeeeze

..was that we were able to spend some time alone

The real "good thing that happened to me today

IT'S TOO FLIPPANT. I SHOULD GO FOR THIS

IT'S A DIFFERENT COLOR THAN THE ONE I WORE BEFORE

THIS ONE IS CUTER, BUT

The weekend is finally here.

But Hokuto is as busy as ever, so we decided to meet at 6 p.m.

SHOULD I GO OUT EARLIER AND BUY HIM A PRESENT ?

RU-
HI-
NG

?

I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH CLOTHES TO BE CHOOSY

SIGH —...

PRACTICALLY ALL OF MY SALARY GOES TO FATHER

There was a huge prob.em with the present for tomorrow's event.

You have to come to the company at once, it's a big emergency

AH... YES!

Riiing

CALL FROM ASA-HINA-SAN?

Asahina-san

YES?

Ah, Mamiya

Are you home?

YES...

I-MAX

Glance

DAMN IT, HOW COULD THEY DUMP THIS JOB ON ME?!

AND WORSE, THE DEADLINE IS TOO TIGHT.

NO WONDER IT'S A HOLIDAY.

I

I DON'T THINK WE CAN GATHER THE REQUIRED AMOUNT

111 Telephone book

But I just asked him to treat me as a "normal employee."

Now I couldn't possibly tell him "I have a date with my husband, so let me go."

WHEN THE STUPID THING FINALLY ARRIVES,

I BET IT'LL HAVE MOSS GROWING ON IT!

PRO-BABLY

This is bad. We won't be finished with this anytime soon.

RUMMAGE

EH?

RUMMAGE

EH?!

RUMMAGE

Glance

I HAVE TO LET HOKUTO KNOW

THAT I'LL BE LATE

No way!

I've forgotten my mobile?!

ANY LUCK WITH YOU?

AH... NOT YET

THESE GUYS SAID THEY CAN GET US 100!

Why?!

Why now?!

I'll be late.

What do I do now?

Hokuto...

AGRH,

DAMN IT ALL! WE ALMOST HAD IT!

WELL, YOU'RE DRESSED UP

AND YOU KEEP GLANCING AT THE CLOCK

EH?

This wasn't supposed to happen!

WE HAVE TO THINK OF SOME REPLACE-MENT.

It's past six o'clock...

IT'S GET-TING LATE I'LL FINISH THIS ALONE

SO WHY DON'T YOU GO? I DON'T MIND.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME! I'LL DO THIS!

LET'S CALL SOME COMPANIES OUTSIDE OF THE ME-TROPOLIS!

THEN I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING THAT'LL MAKE YOU WANT TO GO

HEY, DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU HAD A DATE WITH YOUR HUSBAND TODAY?

I'm sure Hokuto is getting worried.

I.

...HONESTLY FELT MY HEART SKIP A BEAT

WHEN YOU CAME TO WORK TODAY, DRESSED UP LIKE THIS .

WHAT?

IT'S NOT A JOKE

DON'T MAKE SUCH WEIRD JOKES

I THOUGHT YOU HAD DRESSED FOR ME.

FOR ONE MOMENT

BACK THEN, I WANTED TO DATE YOU I WAS SERIOUS ABOUT BEING WITH YOU

I THINK YOU DIDN'T FEEL THE SAME WAY, BUT

I SHOULDN'T HAVE ALLOWED THAT GIRL TO MANIPULATE MY SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY I SHOULD HAVE PUSHED HER AWAY

PLEASE

I WAS IN LOVE

WITH YOU.

YOU KNOW, I

THAT DAY,

WHEN I KISSED YOU, I WASN'T JOKING EITHER—

PLEASE, STOP!

THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO TALK ABOUT SUCH THINGS!

WE HAVE TO DO SOME-THING ABOUT TOMOR-ROW!

SO PLEASE!

DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO GO AWAY?!

EVEN SO, YOU STILL WON'T GO RUNNING TO YOUR HUSBAND?

IT'S GETTING DARK OUTSIDE AND I MIGHT DO SOMETHING TO YOU.

RRRR

IN SHORT, THANKS FOR THE HARD WORK TODAY

YOU CAN GO NOW

WHY DON'T YOU HURRY?

YOU HAVE A DATE, RIGHT?

LOOKS LIKE THE OTHER COMPANY IS TRYING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THEIR MISTAKE

CLACK

WE'LL MANAGE TO GET THE REQUIRED AMOUNT TOGETHER.

I'm sorry, Hokuto.

Hokuto.

Hokuto...

Hokuto

Please don't go home!

THUD

!!!

TEARS

BUT MORE IMPOR-TANTLY, YOU'RE HURT —

WHY ARE YOU HERE ?

I'M SORRY! I FORGOT MY MOBILE AT HOME

YOU WOULDN'T PICK UP YOUR MOBILE AND YOU WEREN'T HOME.

SO I CALLED YOUR COM-PANY IN CASE SOME-THING HAD HAPPENED

SORRY

OUCH!

YES, YOUR BOSS TOLD ME

CAN YOU STAND UP?

I COULDN'T CALL YOU

AND THERE WAS SO MUCH WORK TO DO. .

LIFT

!!!

HOKU—

SHUT UP

WE'RE GOING TO GET TREAT-MENT

Wooh!

I WAS SO LOOKING FORWARD TO IT

A-ALRIGHT

JUST STOP CRYING!

WHAT ARE THE BIG-TALKIN'?

I CAN-CAN'D WHAT ELSE?

WHY DON'T YOU FINALLY SAY SOMETHING?

LISTEN HERE

I CAN'T

LOOK YOU IN THE EYES

YEAH, I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO IT, TOO.

I I'M SO SORRY

BUT I KNOW YOU COULDN'T REFUSE YOUR BOSS TO DO YOUR OWN JOB

IT HAPPENS TO ME ALL THE TIME

SO I CAN'T BLAME YOU ABOUT THAT

BUT

SQUEEZE

SO WHY WERE YOU ALL ALONE

SQUEEZE

OUCH.

WITH ANOTHER MAN AT THAT TIME,

AND DRESSED UP LIKE THIS?

...!!!

I'M SORRY I DIDN'T CONTACT YOU, BUT

I TOO WANTED TO BE THERE

PLEASE, HOKUTO, THIS HURTS

I'M SO PISSED OFF.

I'M REALLY MAD

THAT YOU DID NOT COME TO THE DATE

FOR ALWAYS CLENCHING YOUR TEETH

FOR SAYING SUCH CHILDISH NONSENSE

FOR ALL THAT, I BLAME YOU AND ALSO MYSELF

I'M

NOT GOOD AT HOLD-ING BACK

HOKU

I KNOW

I KNOW YOU GOT THIS WOUND

BECAUSE YOU WERE RUNNING FOR ME

SO MY FEELINGS RIGHT NOW

ARE JUST PURE EGOISM ON MY PART

MOLTO

AM I THE
ONLY ONE IN
THE WORLD
FOR YOU?

WHY?

IT'S JUST A SCRATCH. IT'S SHAL-LOW.

YOU SHOULD .

GET A PROPER DOCTOR TO LOOK AT YOUR IN-JURED KNEE

IS IT?

YOU CRIED SO MUCH IT MUST'VE HURT A LOT

I PAN-ICKED

I WAS HORRIBLY LATE.

THROB

I WAS CRYING BE-CAUSE .

YOU'RE. . STILL MAD AT ME, AREN'T YOU ?

YES.

Smile

ABOUT THAT

I'M REALLY SORRY FOR TODAY

KYAH!

MAD.

PUSH

VERY.

EH. ? TWICE .?

THAT WAS THE FRENCH RESTAURANT FROM YOUR BIRTHDAY

YOU GOT FEVER AND IT ALL FAILED.

GETTING STOOD UP IN THE SAME RES-TAURANT TWICE IN A ROW

THAT WAS A NEW PERSONAL RECORD FOR ME

Pinch

GO ON, CRY IT OUT!

YOU FEEL BETTER NOW?

I'M SORRY! I'M SO SORRY!

Eeeeek!

WHY ASK ME? BE CREATIVE

HOW CAN I EVER MAKE IT UP TO YOU?!!!

WHAT?

YOU HAD FORGOT-TEN?

THE NERVE OF YOU NOBODY HAD STOOD ME UP BEFORE

I GOT A VERY CLEAR IDEA ABOUT HOW YOU FEEL WHEN YOU WAIT FOR ME AT HOME.

IT'S A VERY BAD FEELING I GOT IRRITATED AND WORRIED AND UNEASY.

BUT .

UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, I DIDN'T EXACTLY HATE THIS

I DIDN'T MIND HOW YOU PLAYED ME AND IRRITATED ME AND MADE ME ANGRY

I MIGHT HAVE BECOME A SUPER M*.

AFTER MARRYING YOU!

*NOTE IN THIS CASE, SHORT FOR "MASOCH ST"

SO TAKE YOUR RESPONSI-BILITY FOR THE CANCELED DINNER

BUT I WANT TO MAKE UP FOR ALL THE TIMES I'VE MISSED LATELY.

I'm hungry!

EH! WHAT ABOUT DINNER-

WELL, MAYBE,

NO! SUPER MS DON'T GET ON TOP OF OTHERS LIKE YOU DO!

I WANT TO TAKE THE RE-SPONSI-BILITY IN SOME OTHER SHAPE!

YES, I'M HUNGRY, TOO

BUT I WANT ANOTHER GO

DON'T SAY THAT

AFTER ALL, THESE ARE THE ONLY TIMES WHEN YOU AND I CAN ONLY BELONG TO EACH OTHER.

That time at Okinawa...

...he was drunk, but...

...now he's serious, right..?

RIGHT..?

WIFE

Will there be other times...

...before the end of my life...

AND YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN'T REALLY REFUSE ME, RIGHT?

WELL...

I CAN'T HELP IT, REALLY

...when I see such a sweet side of Hokuto?

Gugle

AL. RIGHT, ROOM SERVICE IT IS

SOR-RY

Rumble

<25th Step Would you shackle me?> *The End*

Read the next chapter at Aerandria.net

※ In the meantime, Asahina is...
I hate the whole world.

http://www.aerandria.net

AERANDRIA

THE RAPID YOU'D BE HIND YOUR FAVORITE RELEASES!

Hapi Mari
Volume 07 Chapter 25

Lacaille :SCANNER
Mari :TRANSLATOR
Lacaile :PROOFREADER
Mya & craxx :EDITORS
Lacaille :QUALITY CHECK

You've got it backwards, Hokuto Sadists enjoy inflicting pain on others, like you So you're not a masochist Please stop squeezing Chiwa now You can squeeze me instead~

- Lacaille

http //aerandria net irc // irch ghway net/#aerandria

26th Step

How do I reach you?

I-MAX

I'm ready for it!

A-All right!!

Only Sakuraba-san?

AH, GOOD MORNING

First, act as if nothing ever happened!

MORNING!

GOOOOD!

SAY, DID ASAHINA-SAN SPEAK TO YOU?

But Asahina-san is always so early...

HE SAID HE WANTS TO RESIGN FROM BEING YOUR DIRECT BOSS.

WELL, THE TRUTH IS .

EH?! WHAT-EVER COULD YOU MEAN?!

SHOCK

SO I'LL BE IN CHARGE OF YOU FROM NOW ON

BUT HE SAID YOU'VE BEEN VERY PROFES-SIONAL ABOUT IT.

. . .

What...

I'M SORRY, I KNOW I MIXED UP THIS WHOLE MESS.

LEARNING THE WIFE OF AN IM-PORTANT CLIENT IS HIS SUBORDI-NATE MUST'VE BEEN A VERY STRESSFUL EX-PERIENCE FOR HIM.

THE OTHER COLLEA-GUES

NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE, TOO.

To be honest, I don't care what the excuse was. I feel relieved.

BUT I...

LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU THEN

NO NO PLEASE DON'T DOW

THE WHOLE MESS IS MY FAULT IN THE FIRST PLACE

AH BY THE WAY ASAHINA-SAN IS GOING THROUGH THE OTHER EVENT ORGANIZERS SO HE WON'T COME

AH

I SEE

"THAT DAY, WHEN I K SSED YOU, I WASN'T JOK NG EITHER-"

I HAD FOR- GOTTEN ABOUT THAT UNTIL HE REM NDED ME

OR MORE LIKE I MADE MYSELF FORGET IT

I was sure it didn't hold any special meaning.

EH

My first kiss was with Asahina-san.

But it was a quick and light thing.

Nothing he might say now could make my feelings change.

What was he trying to do, bringing that up after all this time?

THE NIGHTS ARE STILL COLD.

WHY DON'T YOU COME IN ALREADY?

DID YOU GO GET YOUR KNEE SEEN TO?

I TOLD YOU, IT'S JUST A SCRATCH!

I'M FINE, NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

AH! WEL-COME BACK!

WHAT? DRINKING ALONE?

AH, WELL

LOOKS LIKE HE DOESN'T WANT ANY-THING TO DO WITH ME AFTER THAT.

DO YOU REMEM-BER WHEN ASAHINA-SAN HAPPENED TO BE AT MAMIYA EN-TERPRISES?

DIDN'T YOU SAY JUST A WHILE AGO THAT THINGS WERE GOING GREAT WITH HIM?

SUDDENLY IT WAS DECIDED I WON'T WORK UNDER HIM ANYMORE.

WHAT HAPPENED? DID YOU DO SOMETHING?

..

SUDDENLY?

EH.

YESTERDAY, PERHAPS?

BUT MAYBE I JUST WASN'T TRYING HARD ENOUGH-

YOU DON'T SAY ...

I don't want him to know.

UH, NO, NO ..

I WAS GOING TO DO EVERYTHING BY THE BOOK.

Oh, darn ..!

THEN IT'S ALL RIGHT, I GUESS.

ANY-WAY.

THAT SAKURABA GUY IS LOOKING OUT FOR YOU

HE IS...

Hokuto must not learn about Asa-hina-san and me.

blush

Because I don't want...

to destroy this happi-ness.

BY THE WAY,

I'M KIND OF HUNGRY. ANYTHING TO EAT?

WHAT?! AT SUCH AN HOUR?!

INDIRECT KISS ♡

WHAT?

YEP

YOU'RE STILL SO INNOCENT ABOUT SUCH THINGS ...

FRONTAL CRASH

I~MA

...

AH..

MORN-
ING..

G-GOOD
MORNING .

MAMIYA-
SAN, A
MOMENT!

AH,
COMING!

Asahina-
san...

SORRY...

EVERYTHING
HAPPENED SO
SUDDENLY.

SOUMA-SAN
0XXXXXXXXX

OF COURSE.

BUT HURRY.

EXCUSE ME. . I HAVE TO TAKE THIS.

FROM SOUMA-SAN?

SO, ABOUT THAT-

AH!

DID SOME-THING HAPPEN ?

YES, CHIWA HERE?

I'M SORRY, BUT ARE YOU FREE RIGHT NOW?

Eh.

What?!

THE HOSPITAL CONTACTED ME TO SAY HE IS IN THE EMER-GENCY ROOM

AS YOU KNOW, THE PRESIDENT'S FATHER IS STILL IN THE HOSPITAL IT SEEMS THAT HIS CONDITION HAS WORSENED

IT'S SEIJI-SAMA

..wasn't he heading towards recovery?

Hokuto hasn't told me a word about his condition..!

I knew he was probably still in the hospital...

But...

WHAT IS IT?

....

EHM..

SAKURABA-SAN

?

AH!

HOW IS FATHER-IN-LAW..?

HE RALLIED, SOMEHOW

HE IS RESTING NOW.

shook

YOU CAN'T TALK TO HIM, BUT YOU CAN SEE HIM.

AH, PLEASE!

pull

How could... this happen...

And much thinner than the last time I saw him.

He is as pale as a goner.

HAVE ANY OF THE MAMIYAS COME TO SEE HIM?

SEVERAL,

BUT THEY ALL WENT HOME WHEN THE DOCTORS ANNOUNCED HE IS GOING TO RECOVER.

THAT'S NOT SOMETHING I'M SUPPOSED TO DISCUSS...

..

EXCUSE ME

WHAT EXACTLY IS HIS ILLNESS?

KNEW ABOUT THIS ..

SO HOKUTO ..

AND HE DIDN'T COME?

NO ...

the only person with his blood in his veins is [illegible] by his [illegible] Why?

And even at such a time,

that could only mean he doesn't have a long time left to live.

[illegible]

That's just not right! It's not!

WELCOME BACK...

I'M AWAKE BECAUSE WE HAVE TO TALK!

YOU'LL COLLAPSE AGAIN IF-

YOU'RE STILL AWAKE? HURRY UP AND SLEEP.

SNAP

WHY DIDN'T YOU GO TO SEE YOUR FATHER IN HOSPITAL TODAY?!

BUT COULDN'T YOU GO AFTER THAT,

LIKE YOU DID WHEN I COL-LAPSED?

YOU KNOW IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT WITH ME

I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING I COULDN'T POSTPONE.

DIDN'T SOUMA TELL YOU THAT?

YOU'RE WEIRD.

YOU DIDN'T SAY A WORD WHEN I LEFT YOU ALL ALONE BECAUSE OF WORK.

AND YET YOU'RE SO UPSET THAT I DIDN'T GO SEE THAT MAN. HOW COME?

SO I'M NOT OBLIGED TO GO VISIT HIM.

END OF QUESTION.

I THINK I MADE THIS CLEAR AL-READY

MY FAMILY CONSISTS OF YOU *ONLY*.

FIRST OF ALL..

HE MIGHT HAVE DIED, YOU KNOW?!

AND EVEN SO YOU—

IT'S NOT *OBLIGA-TION* I'M TALKING ABOUT...

DON'T YOU SEE. ? HE'S YOUR FATHER .!

THAT'S A HORRIBLE THING TO SAY!

I COULD HAVE NEVER IMAGINED

YOU WERE SO COLD!

EVERYTHING THAT LIVES SOONER OR LATER DIES. WE ALL WILL, ONE DAY.

HIS CONDITION WOULD NOT HAVE CHANGED EITHER FOR THE BETTER OR THE WORSE IF I HAD GONE TO SEE HIM

...

COLD. ?

SCAM

KYAH ...!

YOU KNEW RIGHT FROM THE START THAT I'M COLD TO EVERYONE BUT YOU!

WHAT RIGHT DO YOU HAVE TO TALK TO ME ABOUT COLD?!

THAT'S HOW I AM!

HOKUTO ...

THAT'S ...

THAT'S WHAT HE WANTED ME TO BE!

EXACTLY WHAT THAT OLD MAN WISHED AND HE GOT IT!

94 POINTS, MY WORD ...

FLOP

94

YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF FOR MAKING TWO MIS-TAKES.

WHY DID YOU GET TWO WHOLE QUESTIONS WRONG?

He wanted me to win every time, no matter against whom I went up against.

He wanted me to grow up cold and calculating.

THE WORLD YOU'RE GOING TO STEP INTO IS NOT AS SWEET AND EASY AS A SCHOOL TEST

NO MISTAKES ARE ALLOWED.

ONE MIS-TAKE AND YOU LOSE.

ONE LOSS AND... YOU *TOO* MIGHT BE CRUSHED TO THE GROUND.

YOU'RE MY SON. YOU MUST UN-DERSTAND AT LEAST THAT MUCH

BESIDES, YOU HATE ME ANYWAY, DON'T YOU?

SO WHY DON'T YOU START THINKING OF WAYS TO PAY ME BACK AND TRIUMPH OVER ME?

BUT I CHOSE TO BECOME THE WAY HE WANTED ME TO BE.

I HATE TO THINK THAT I DANCED TO THAT MAN'S TUNE

ILLNESS OR WHATEVER, WHY SHOULD I GO SEE A MAN WHO HAS LOST?

NO, I'M DEFI-NITELY NOT MAKING A MISTAKE

SHOVE

EVEN IF YOU HATE ME,

THAT'S WHO I AM.

HOWEVER THAT MAY BE. .

HOKUTO,

I HATE YOU WHEN YOU SAY SUCH COLD THINGS .!

I CAN'T SLEEP WITH YOU RIGHT NOW.

I'LL SLEEP IN THE FRONT ROOM.

step

step

step

step

SLAM

CRACK

It doesn't matter if I love him or understand him or am married to him or whatever.

There's a wall inside him he wouldn't let me break through...

I GUESS HOKUTO WON'T COME TODAY EITHER.

Souma-san called me to tell me my father-in-law has woken up.

Eh, your father?!

Hurry up and go see him!

Terrible!

I'M SO GLAD SAKURABA-SAN IS MY BOSS NOW

Asahina-san wouldn't have let me go.

I know very well...

...that you're not such a cold person as you say you are, Hokuto.

You must know your father has woken up.

And yet you pretend you feel nothing?

KNOCK KNOCK

COME IN...

501

MAMIYA SOUJI

I can be obstinate, too, just wait and see.

That's why I'm not giving up.

AH .

LONG TIME NO SEE.

His frame has become so thin.

His voice is hoarse...

I'M. .

I'M SORRY FOR NOT KEEPING IN TOUCH

IT'S FINE.

I'M GLAD YOU CAME. SORRY YOU HAVE TO SEE ME LIKE THIS

SO, HOW HAVE YOU BEEN DOING?

FINE, THANK YOU.

WELL, THERE ARE ILLNESSES FROM WHICH YOU CANNOT RECOVER, AS IT SEEMS.

I WAS HESI-TATING WHETHER I SHOULD TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT IT...

I WAS LEFT WITH THE FIRM IMPRES-SION YOU WERE RE-COVER-ING FROM YOUR ILL-NESS...

WHEN I LEARNED ABOUT MY ILL-NESS, IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE.

I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT TO LIVE.

I'M SORRY ...

FOR BEING SO POWERLESS ...

YOU'RE CRYING FOR ME?

HOW KIND YOU ARE. THANK YOU

NOT THAT . .

I . .

I'M SO SORRY ...

FOR WHAT?

I COULD NOT...

...BRING HOKUTO TO YOU...

DON'T TALK ABOUT SUCH UNREALISTIC THINGS

I KNOW VERY WELL WHAT THAT BOY IS LIKE.

HE'D NEVER COME, EVEN IF YOU PUT A CHAIN AROUND HIS NECK.

NO!

IF HE KNEW HOW SERIOUS YOUR CONDITION IS-

I'M GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SENTIMENT, BUT I TELL YOU WHAT I TOLD SOUMA, TOO

PLEASE, KEEP MY APPROACHING DEATH A SECRET FROM THE BOY

WHY ...?

HE WOULDN'T COME EVEN IF HE KNEW.

THIS WAY HE CAN THINK "I DIDN'T KNOW SO I DIDN'T GO"

AND GO WITHOUT GETTING HURT BECAUSE OF IT.

This is so

IT'S AS THEY SAY, YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.

WHAT?

IT'S TRUE.

I NEVER IMAGINED I COULD BE WRONG IN WHAT I WAS DOING

IN OUR WORLD, PEOPLE THINK OF NOTHING BUT HOW TO BACKSTAB EACH OTHER.

I WANTED HIM TO BE ABLE TO SURVIVE IN THIS WORLD EVEN IF I WASN'T THERE TO WATCH HIS BACK ANYMORE.

THAT'S WHY I TAUGHT HIM MYSELF THAT HE SHOULD CAST ASIDE ALL BLOOD TIES THE MOMENT THEY BECAME INCONVENIENT.

IN THAT SENSE, YOU COULD SAY HE GREW UP TO EVEN SURPASS MY EXPECTATIONS.

BUT NOW I'M STARTING TO THINK THAT I ROBBED HIM OF ANY CHANCES

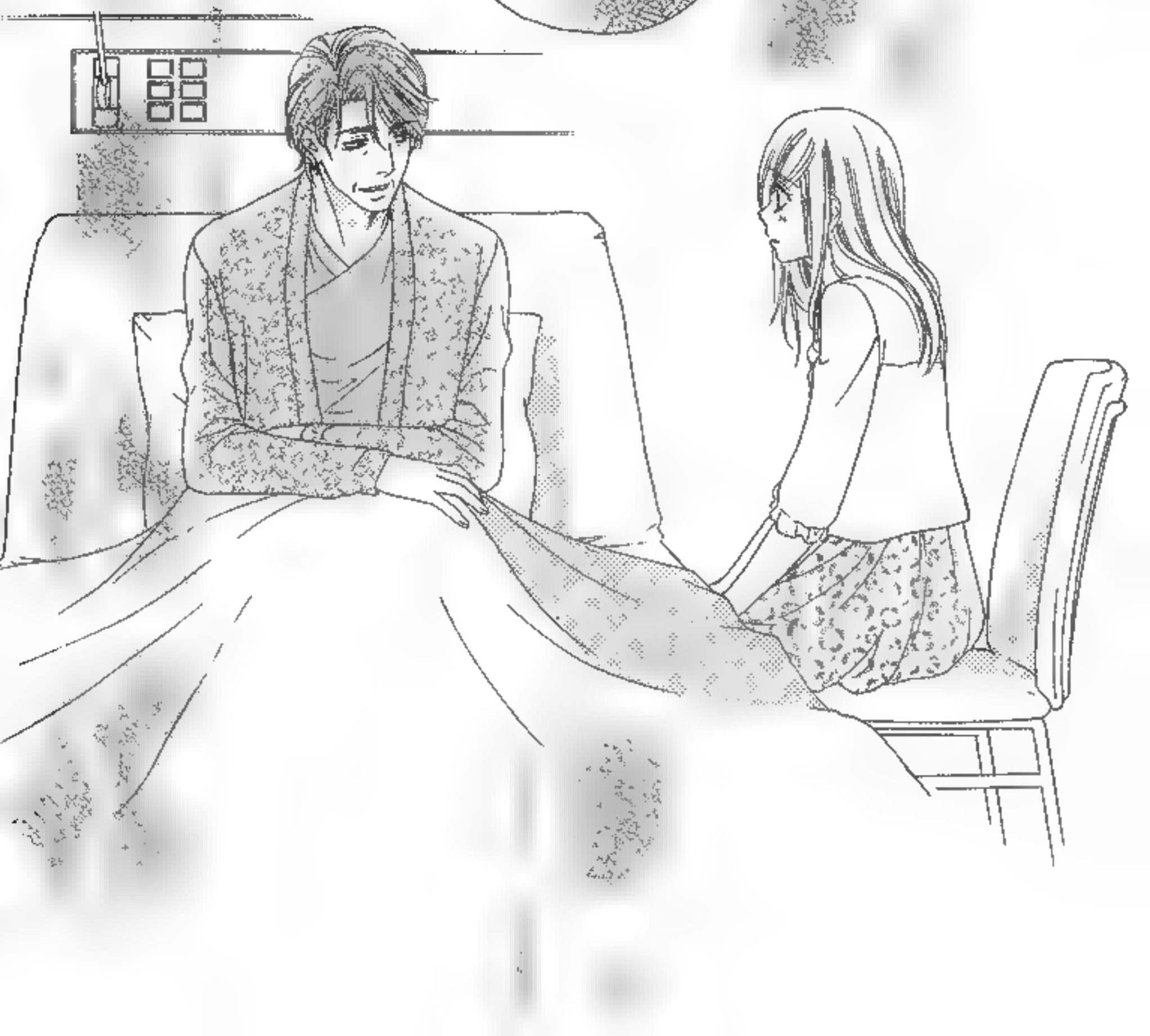
TO CHOOSE A DIFFERENT WAY OF LIFE.

I'M JUST GLAD HE MET YOU.

ANYWAY, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT THAT ANYMORE

I BELIEVE. .

YOU CAN OPEN A NEW DOOR FOR THAT BOY.



I'LL. .

I'LL DO SOMETHING, ANYTHING, AND BRING HOKUTO HERE.

I knew it.

Come what may, I cannot just let Hokuto ignore his father's feelings...

EVEN SO!

THANK YOU, BUT I THINK IT'S IMPOSSIBLE

YOU'RE PRETTY OBSTINATE

IF THERE IS ANY REASON AT ALL WHY FATE MADE ME HOKUTO'S WIFE,

THEN,

I'M SURE THIS IS IT..!

I BELIEVE THAT IT'S WRONG THAT YOUR OWN FLESH AND BLOOD, YOUR SON,

BECAUSE

WOULD NOT COME TO SEE YOU AT SUCH A TIME

LISTEN NOW

AND I DON'T BELIEVE IN WHAT HOKUTO SAYS

I DON'T

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU KILLED HIS MOTHER

HOKUTO SAID YOU HAD MOTIVES TO KILL HER,

BUT I THINK THAT RATHER THAN HER

COULDN'T YOU PLEASE TELL ME THE TRUTH?

THE ONE THEY WERE TRYING TO KILL WASN'T HIS MOTHER,

IT WAS HOKUTO HIMSELF. AM I RIGHT?

YOU ..

KNOCK

KNOCK

Shitara-san..?

COME IN...

AH..

YOU'VE COME TO SEE ME, TOO?

DIRECTOR ?!

press

I HEARD YOU HAD RE-COVERED

. .

. . .

Hello.

EXCUSE ME FOR INTRUD-ING.

I HOPE I DIDN'T IN-TERRUPT YOU?

Is it because of what I said?!

AH, I SEE.

IN THAT CASE, I'M LEAVING RIGHT AWAY.

I DON'T . . FEEL SO WELL..

I'M GLAD YOU CAME, BUT IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME. .

FATHER ?!

MAMIYA-SAN?! WHAT'S WRONG?!

STEP

STEP

YOU TOO, CHIWA-SAN... SORRY ...

EH,..

LET'S LEAVE THEM.

I'LL COME AGAIN. .

He didn't...

tell me anything...

I CAME TODAY ON THE CHAIRMAN'S REQUEST

BUT TO THINK HE HAS WORSENED SO MUCH SO QUICKLY...

HE HAS, HASN'T HE...?

IS ANY-THING THE MATTER WITH YOU?

EH?

EVERY TIME I MEET YOU, YOU'RE CRYING.

IF THAT'S SO, THEN GOOD I WAS WORRIED

I-I'M ACTUALLY VERY PERKY USUALLY! REALLY!

I-I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO SEE ALL THESE EMBARRASSING THINGS!

EVEN AT THAT PARTY

HOKUTO-

I MEAN

MY HUSBAND

WOULDN'T COME TO SEE HIS FATHER

EVEN NOW THAT HE'S IN SUCH A CONDITION

AND I, DE-SPITE BEING HIS WIFE,

COULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO PERSUADE HIM TO COME...

FATHER-IN-LAW WANTS TO SEE HIM SO MUCH .

I FELT SO MISERABLE THAT I JUST STARTED CRYING...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO MIND ME

I KNOW YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES

I'M SORRY

I KNOW I'M EMBARRASSING THE FAMILY BUT I COULDN'T HELP IT ..

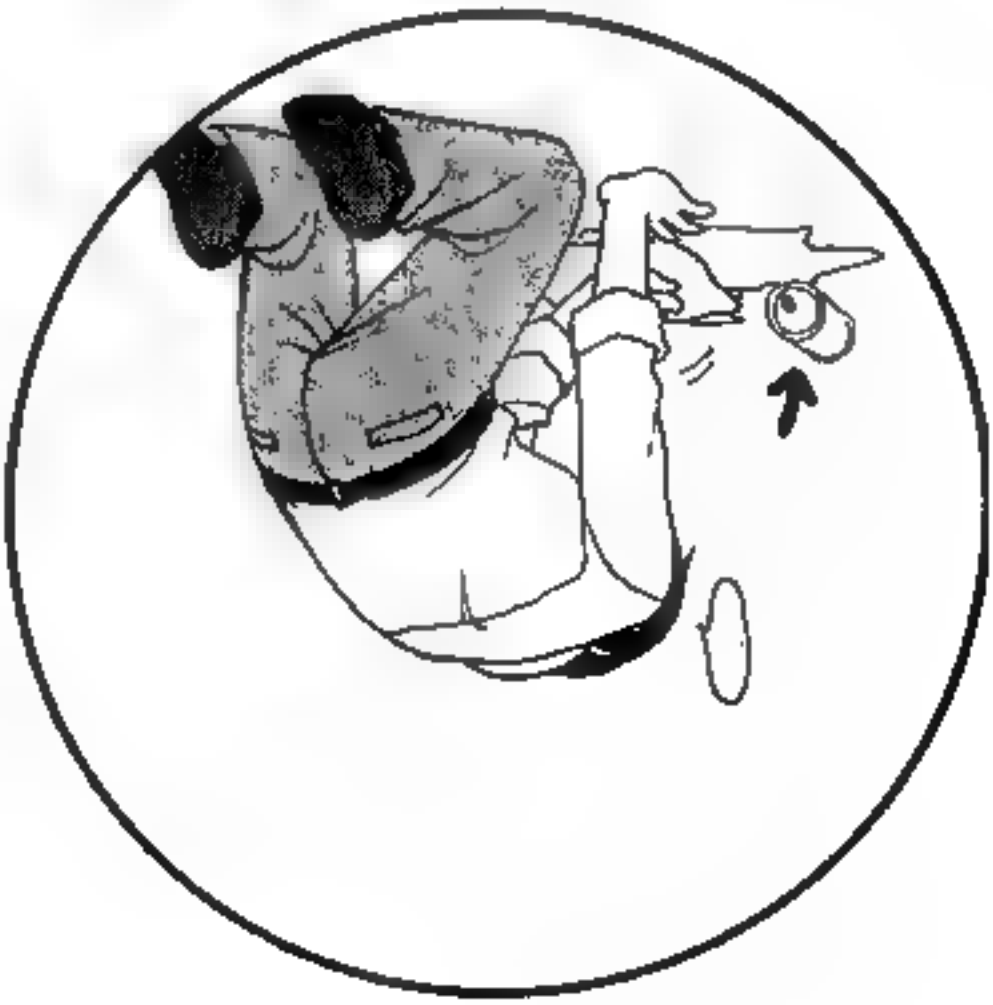
ACTUALLY,

I COULD PROBABLY SAY I KNOW THEM BETTER THAN YOU DO.

ESPECIALLY HIS CIRCUMSTANCES

Eh...?

<26th Step How do I reach you?> *The End*



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The rabid souls behind your favorite releases!

Hapi Mari
v07 ch26

SCANNER: LACAILLE
TRANSLATOR: MARI
PROOFREADER: LACAILLE
EDITOR: MYA
QUALITY CHECK: LACAILLE

You know, chaining Hokuto is not such a bad idea... Listen to your father-in-law, Chiwa! XD

- Lacaille

27th Step

Can we reconcile?

I COULD PROBABLY SAY I KNOW YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES BETTER THAN YOU DO.

ESPECIALLY HIS CIRCUMSTANCES.

What... does she mean...?

27th Step

Can we reconcile?

SPECIAL THANKS

Assistant

K·SANO
E·SHIMOJO
Y·MICHISHITA
N·HORI

Editor

M·OKADA

Please, send your impres-
sions to th s address.
101-8001
Tokyo-to, Chiyoda-ku, Hitot-
subashi 2-3-1
Shougakuukan, Petit comics
editorial
To: Enjouj Maki
*Lately, there have been
piles of unanswered letters
forming here I'm very sorry
about that I will answer them
as soon as I can find the
time, so I'll be happy if wait
patiently for replies.

I have a very bad feeling.

DO YOU MEAN .

EXCUSE ME .

HOKUTO'S ?

OF COURSE.

YOU SAY HE WOULDN'T COME TO SEE HIS FATHER EVEN WHEN HE'S IN THIS CONDITION?

OF COURSE HE WOULDN'T.

MOREOVER, YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE IGNORANT

OF THE REASON WHY HOKUTO MARRIED YOU?

IN THEIR FATHER-SON RELATIONSHIP, THERE AREN'T ANY EMOTIONS THAT YOU SHOULD CRITICIZE

AH

SORRY BUT WHY-

She st[illegible] using a honor[illegible]

She call[illegible] H[illegible] just by his name!

IT'S JUST THAT THE FOUNDATION ON WHICH HOKUTO'S WHOLE BEHAVIOR IS BUILT IS "NEGATING HIS FATHER."

[illegible] a big [illegible] extremely close personal relationship it's not so unusual as for a wife to worry about another woman spreading the [illegible] of her husband

SO IF HE DID WHAT YOU WANT HIM TO DO,

THAT WOULD MEAN NEGATING EVERYTHING HE HIMSELF STANDS FOR

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE HIS WIFE OR WHAT-EVER.

IF HIS FATHER DIED..

BUT LOOK..

T-THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN TO...

IS THIS WHAT YOU CALL LOVE?

HOW COULD YOU TRY TO FORCE ON HIM YOUR OWN OUT-LOOK ON THE WORLD

OR DENY HIS WHOLE WAY OF LIFE?

MAYBE YOU SHOULD THINK A LITTLE ABOUT THIS?

EVEN IF IT'S ALL JUST A FARCE, YOU ARE HIS "WIFE," REMEMBER?

TRY NOT TO SABOTAGE HIM TOO MUCH.

HE'S MY TREASURED BUSINESS PARTNER FOR NOW, AFTER ALL.

SEE YOU AGAIN.

ももいろ

I want to forget how I watched them with so much envy

At that party

I know she understands how very wrong

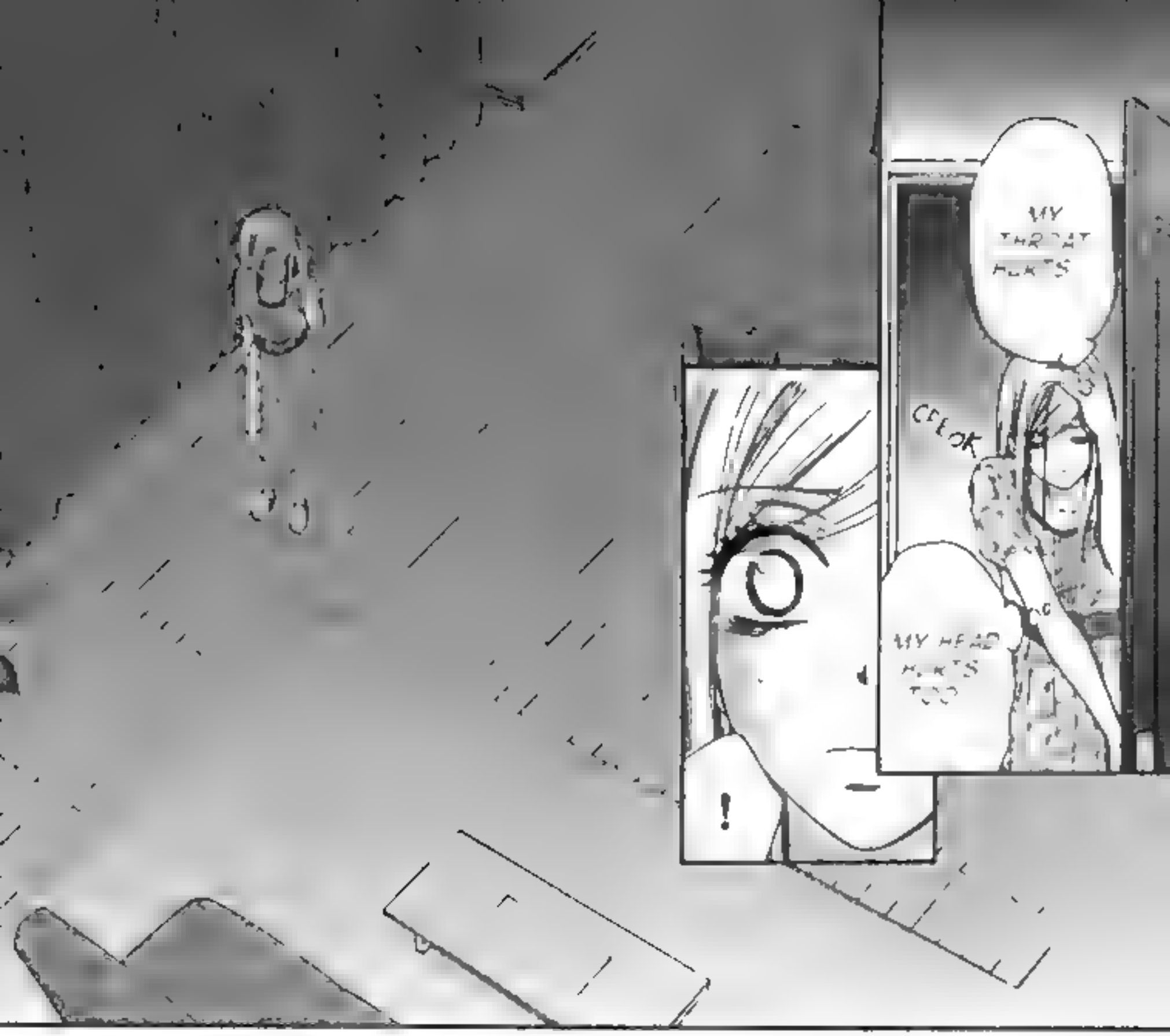
One [illegible] have surrendered me at that so

[illegible]
her

But I
didn't
want this
to happen

I don't want to know

that Hukuto ever touched another woman but me


MY THROAT HURTS
CCLOK
MY HEAD HURTS TOO
!

IT'S 3 O'CLOCK ALREADY
0°
EH

That day.

I-MAX

YES.

HE DOES LEAVE THE COMPANY EVERY EVE-NING ?

HEEEY, MAMI-YA-SAN!

IS ANY-THING THE MATTER?

AH, NO, IT'S NOTH-ING. .

COULD YOU GO PICK UP THESE THINGS?

YES ...

I heard you're good at negotiating prices.

Suits and shirts kept disap-pearing from Hokuto's room while I wasn't home.

Hokuto didn't come home.

Neither the next day. Nor the day after that...

OPEN

IS ACTING STRANGELY LATELY, RIGHT?

MAMIYA-SAN

YEAH .. I GUESS.

So he means not to come back home anymore?

I'M GOING NOW ..

STAGGER

THANK YOU!

SAKURABA-SAN, DO YOU KNOW ANY-THING?

NO. .

. .

It's true that it was hard to face him, but this is too much...

I never imagined..

it would come to this.

JUMP

HO-

HOKUTO?!

CLONK

Silence

It was just my imagination

DRIP

I knew he would come home eventually.

But that was because...

Let's dig in.

I'm used to eating alone.

Hokuto is gone.

Will I always eat alone from now on?

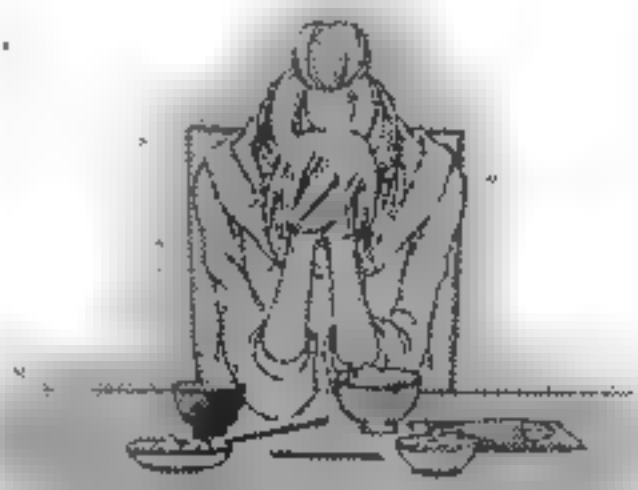
I hate to admit it, but it's just as she said.

Maybe I really was denying Hokuto's way of life...

because of my own views and values.

I didn't mean for things to turn out this way.

And yet...



I can't even tell him that now.

RRRR
RRRR
RRRR
RRRR
RRRR
RRRR
...
Please, just listen to what I want to tell you.
I can't leave things as they are. I want one more chance.
CUT OFF
EH.
I'M A LITTLE SCARED TO CALL HIM
Do
HERE WE GO!

Does this mean he doesn't even want to hear my voice anymore..?

Taut Taut

He hung up..?

Hokuto...

I-MAX

MAMIYA

MAY I HAVE A MOMENT?

YES. ?

flop

AND I THINK I ASKED YOU TO CHECK THIS? IT'S FULL OF MIS-TAKES.

YOUR WORK LATELY HAS BEEN A MESS.

I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TALK TO YOU FOR SOME TIME.

DO YOU FEEL UNWELL?

WHAT .?

. . !

I'M SORRY -

TO BE FRANK, THIS CAN'T CON-TINUE ANY-MORE.

How badly must I have-

NO

I-I WILL BE MORE CAREFUL.

I made that gentle Sakuraba-san so angry.

IF YOU HAVE SOME PROB-LEMS, SOLVE THEM.

IF YOU ARE ILL, GO GET HOSPITAL. TREATMENT.

. .

GO HOME FOR TODAY.

AH!

This can't be. I can't let this happen.

I will mess up not only my relationship with Hokuto but my work as well.

AH, ARE YOU LEAV-ING?

SEE YOU!

I can't take this anymore!

Do something, Hikaru!

RRR

dash

RRR

RRR

RRR

CLANK

WHY
WHY ARE YOU AT HOME AT SUCH AN HOUR ?
EH
HO-
HOKUTO ?

What has he been doing?

He looks ill.

Has he... lost weight?

AH...

LISTEN, HOKU-

THUD

HOKUTO ..!

HOKUTO! WHAT'S WRONG?!

..T UP...

WHAT?!

SHUT UP!

I WOULDN'T BE SEEN DEAD IN SOME UGLY, UNCOOL AM-BULANCE CAR!

CAN'T YOU GET UP?!

SHOULD I CALL AN AMBU-LANCE?!

WHAT ..?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? EVEN AT SUCH A MOMENT...

..'S WHY...

...HOW WAS I .

WHAT SHOULD I HAVE DONE?

I'M NOT WRONG

I DON'T REGRET IT. I DON'T DOUBT IT

BUT I KNOW THAT...

WHAT YOU SAID WAS NOT WRONG EITHER.

THE PROB-LEM

IS THAT IF I AD-MITTED THAT,

I WOULDN'T BE MYSELF ANYMORE.

TELL ME.

WHAT SHOULD I HAVE DONE?

EVEN IF IT'S ALL JUST A FARCE,

"YOU ARE HIS "WIFE" REMEMBER"

HOKUTO .

I'm the one who drove you to the wall like this.

Me.

WHAT THE-

yank

?!

DRIP

DRIP

I'M SORRY ...

I HAD NO IDEA THAT THE THINGS I SAID WOULD CAUSE YOU SO MUCH WORRY..

I'M SORRY .

EVEN IF YOU APOLOGIZE NOW,

SLAP

YOU'LL STILL KEEP RUNNING IN YOUR OWN TRACKS.

BUT I'LL NEVER MAKE YOU SEE THINGS MY WAY, WILL I?

BUT. .

PERHAPS WE COULD THINK ABOUT IT TOGETHER?

I DON'T KNOW ANY MORE THAN YOU ON WHAT YOU SHOULD DO.

I CAN'T DOUBT YOUR FATHER ANY-MORE. .

NO MATTER WHAT YOU MIGHT THINK OF HIM, HOKUTO.

MAYBE WE'LL BOTH NEVER SEE THINGS FROM THE OTHER'S POINT OF VIEW. MAYBE WE WON'T FIND AN ANSWER

BUT MAYBE WE COULD AT LEAST TRY TO DO THINGS THIS WAY, TO-GETHER..?

IF WE TRY, MAYBE THE ANSWER WON'T STAY HIDDEN FOR-EVER

THAT'S INEFFEC-TIVE AND UN-PRODUCTIVE.

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO LIVE THAT WAY.

THERE ARE SOME ANSWERS WHICH DON'T NEED THINKING ABOUT.

EVEN IF YOU'RE RIGHT,

EVEN IF YOU KEEP HATING YOUR FATHER FOREVER,

I LOVE YOU, HOKUTO

WHEN YOU'RE NOT HERE, I JUST...

SO PLEASE... COME BACK TO ME.

EVEN THE FOOD DOESN'T TASTE LIKE ANYTHING WHEN I'M ALONE...

I WAS FALLING TO PIECES.

I KEEP MAKING MISTAKES AT WORK. TODAY EVEN SAKURABA-SAN WAS ANGRY WITH ME AND SENT ME HOME.

I CAN'T BE WITHOUT YOU ANYMORE, HOKUTO.

COME BACK.

I COULDN'T HELP REMEM-BERING YOU.

I COULDN'T SLEEP ALL THIS TIME

YOUR VOICE, YOUR WARMTH. .

BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T BY MY SIDE.

BUT YOU WEREN'T THERE.

THINGS ENDED UP LIKE THIS.

I LEFT ON MY OWN, SO I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE .

WHEN DID I

BECOME SO WEAK?

I'm sure

HOKUTO

SUCH A LONG TIME SINCE WE LAST KISSED

HE-HEH

DON'T YOU THINK WE'RE BECOMING A LITTLE ALIKE?

JUST TOUCHING YOU MAKES ME FEEL ALL BETTER.

WELL, WE'RE HUSBAND AND WIFE, AFTER ALL.

HM?

Riiiiiiing

I'm sure there's a way for us to continue being "husband and wife."

Even if there are things we disagree about

WHAT?

PRESIDENT SHITARA DID WHAT?

Not that again?

WHAT IS IT, SOUMA?

YEAH ...

I UNDER-STAND

YES, TELL HER THAT

Ah...

I see...

I'M GOING BACK TO THE COM-PANY

I CAME TO GET A FEW THINGS, BUT THERE'S NO NEED ANY-MORE

He has to keep meeting her because of their work...

AH!

THEN TODAY YOU WILL-

I'LL RETURN.

I WANT TO SLEEP WITH YOU AT ANY RATE TO-NIGHT.

I believe in you.

CLOSE

OPEN

I want to find the reason...

why I was able to become Hokuto's wife.

MISAKI.

THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THIS HAD TO BRING IT TO ME TODAY

WHY BOTHER COMING IN PERSON?

I JUST WANTED TO SEE YOUR FACE.

SHOULD THERE BE A SPECIAL REASON?

HERE.

SOUMA TOLD ME YOU WERE COMING HERE.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME.

JUDGING BY IT, THE USUAL CRYING BOUT DID NOT COM-MENCE.

YES.

FACE?

MY FACE?

HERE.

..?

AH, AND THERE'S ONE OTHER THING I WANTED TO GIVE YOU.

SEE YOU.

GLAD I WAS ABLE TO SEE YOUR FACE.

IT BOTHERED ME, SO I'M GIVING IT TO YOU.

WHAT'S THIS?

HEY!

WHAT'S WITH HER...

INVESTIGATION REPORT

Asahina Kaname and Mamiya Chiwa
Relationship circumstances

<27th Step Can we reconcile?> *The End*

But he was godawfully untidy!
The guest in Room 803 was so hot!
I'm so tired.
Being married to such a guy must be horrible

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28th Step

We don't worry about each other's past... Do we?

×

fidget

fidget

Any time now...

Hokuto, any time now...

There are plenty of things still left to take care of,

like father-in-law or Shitara-san.

But first of all, we have to get back together.

CLICK

Ah!

Loiter

Loiter

Loiter

What ?

step h

YEAH

W-
WELCOME
BACK
HOME!

HOKUTO
?!

Why .s
he so
lethargic?

Is he just
tired ?

HOKJTO-

WHAT?

THE BATH IS READY.

OR WOULD YOU LIKE DINNER FIRST?

I CAN MAKE YOU WHAT YOU WANT.

AH, IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT,

Pop Pop Pop

I'LL GO BUY IT RIGHT AWAY

CHIWA .

COME

?

LET'S DO IT.

ALL RIGHT...

HN

RIING RIING

ISN'T IT A LITTLE LATE TO BE CALLING ME?

IT'S ME

YES?

HOWEVER THAT MAY BE

TRIFLES ?!

DO YOU REALIZE SHE MIGHT BE CHEATING ON YOU IN THIS VERY MOMENT?

LISTEN WELL.

DON'T EVER DO SUCH A THING AGAIN, UNDERSTOOD?

WHAT TIME DO YOU THINK IT IS?

I HAVE MANY PROJECTS THAT NEED TAKING CARE OF

I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO DEAL WITH TRIFLES.

EVEN IF SHE IS CHEATING ON ME, CHIWA IS MY WIFE NOW

THE PAST DOESN'T MATTER.

THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO TELL YOU

SEE YOU AGAIN PRESIDENT SHITARA

ARE YOU BACK TO NORMAL

SAITOBARA-SAN, I'M SORRY! I APOLOGIZE FOR THE DELAY!

DEMON

My energy returned together with Hokuto.

THEN GO HELP TAKAMIYA NEXT.

YES!

EH? SOME-ONE DROPPED THEIR DOCU-MENTS

WHOSE-

SORRY.

EHM... ASAHINA-SAN, ABOUT THE WORK YOU DO WITH MAMIYA EN-TERPRISES

WHAT ABOUT IT?

THAT IS MINE

dash

AH, NOTHING

THANKS!

?

YES, WHY?

DO YOU ALSO WORK WITH MICHELLE HEARTS?

What a bad combination.

Both Asahina san and Shirara san are connected to Hakuto because of their work.

It's as if I'm the only one outside.

I'm just like the wives in dramas...

Today's a holiday and he's out working again.

...suspecting their husbands of cheating.

Sob Sob

Sob

Am I going too far?!

But he's been coming home late again.

It bothers me so much to know...

...that there's a side of Hokuto at work that I never get to see.

Especially after I said I believed in him.

The woman who's always with Hokuto because of work.

I can't stop being worried about that woman.

But no matter how much I say I believe in him

I COULD SAY I WAS PASSING BY CHANCE AND

STOP

!

Shitara-san!

She's here on a holiday...

VROOM

I know... It's all because of work

...leaving me, his wife, on a holiday...

However

and going to work with s

what will be left of me in the end?

But if I keep going on like this,

I know I have to stop being so self-centered to become a good wife.

tear

turn

MAMIYA ..?

What?

AH!

I'M SORRY!

THUD

WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE WAS ALL MY FAULT!

BOW

I'M SORRY!

Chat noir

AH, EHM, PEOPLE ARE LOOKING, SO PLEASE...

BUT I COULDN'T APOLOGIZE TO YOU PROPERLY AT WORK

ARE YOU ALONE TODAY?

YOUR HUSBAND IS NOT COMING?

EH? AH, NO...

PLEASE, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, REALLY.

I PROBABLY OVERREACTED, TOO.

I can't believe Asahina-san was so worried about it!!

WORKING AGAIN..?

AH!

NO, SORRY.

SO YOU SHOULD KNOW WELL ENOUGH THAT HE'S BUSY WITH THE MICHELLE HEARTS PROJECT.

YOU'RE INVOLVED IN HIS WORK NOW, TOO, ASAHINA-SAN,

WHAT?

WELL, I WASN'T INVOLVED VERY DEEPLY, BUT...

MAYBE THE PRESIDENTS STILL HAVE SOME WORK TO FINISH UP, I DON'T KNOW.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? THAT BUSINESS WAS CONCLUDED OFFICIALLY LAST WEEK.

THINGS ARE PRETTY CALM NOW.

Then why is he meeting her in the company!?

HEY ...

So... So he's not with Shitara-san to work today?

I KNEW IT..

YOU'RE PUSHING YOURSELF AGAIN

I SUDDENLY REMEMBERED ANOTHER ENGAGEMENT SORRY..!

EH?

WAIT A MINUTE.

WHEN YOUR PARTNER IS PRESIDENT OF A BIG COMPANY,

IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT YOUR VALUES AND WAYS OF THINKING WILL DIFFER ..

BUT I MARRIED HIM BECAUSE I WANTED TO.

I DID IT KNOWING VERY WELL IT WILL BE HARD AND THERE'LL BE TIMES I HATE IT.

I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO SAY.

This bad feeling I have...

...must be nothing but my imagination.

FOR MY CONCERN ONLY...

I'M THANKFUL FOR YOUR CONCERN, THOUGH.

SEE YOU!

THE PRESIDENT?

WE'RE NOT SO BUSY ENOUGH TO REQUIRE HIM TO WORK ON A HOLIDAY

But...

I need someone to tell me that's so.

THE FIRST COUPLE OF DAYS.

BUT NOT SO MUCH AFTER THAT THAT'S WHY HE MANAGES TO LEAVE THE COMPANY SO EARLY THESE DAYS.

N-NO.

EHM, AND WAS HE BUSY LAST WEEK?

IS ANYTHING WRONG?

I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING ON DATES WITH YOU MADAM?

THANK YOU FOR ANSWER-ING

Meeting that woman in the company today

BEEP

No..!

RING

I'M TOO BUSY TODAY

I DON'T CARE, JUST COME HOME AL-READY!

IT'S AN EMERGENCY, DO YOU HEAR ME?!

I JUST WANT YOU TO COME BACK HOME QUICKLY

?!

I CAN'T RIGHT NOW.

YES, HELLO ?!

WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

HAS SOME-THING HAP-PENED?

Why am I doing this?

COME HOME RIGHT NOW.

JUST... JUST COME.

HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON ?

I'm sick and tired of this.

CHIWA!

WHAT HAP-
PENED?!

ALL
RIGHT

CLANK

tuurt
tuurt

I lied to
Hokuto.

I didn't
mean to
do such a
thing

ARE YOU ILL?!

Hokuto...

. . .

. LIED .

WHAT?

WHAT WAS THAT EMER-GENCY?

IT'S NOTHING I LIED.

WHAT?!

EHM... I. .

WELL,

SOUMA-SAN TOLD ME EVERYTHING!

YOU'VE NEVER DONE THIS BEFORE!

WHAT FOR?! WHAT WERE YOU EVEN THINKING!

WHAT WERE YOU DOING?! WEREN'T YOU MEETING WITH SOMEONE YOU COULDN'T TELL ME ABOUT?!

LIKE SHI-TARA-SAN!

SHE SAID YOU'RE NOT SO BUSY AS TO HAVE TO GO TO WORK ON A HOLIDAY.

AND YOU LEFT THE COMPANY EARLY LAST WEEK BUT DIDN'T COME HOME!

JUST SAY?

DID YOU . .

WHAT ...

DON'T TRY TO FOOL ME!

WHY BRING HER UP?

SHITARA-SAN?

I KNOW...

ABOUT SHITARA-SAN AND YOU.

YOU WERE IN A RELATIONSHIP, RIGHT?

HEY. .

AND I THINK YOU ARE MEETING HER AGAIN, AREN'T YOU?

WHO CARES HOW!

HOW THE HELL DID YOU FIND OUT?

ARE YOU DATING HER OR ARE YOU NOT!

WHO TOLD YOU SUCH A THING?!

IT'S WHAT THEY CALL *AN OLD FLAME*, RIGHT?!

OLD FEELINGS COMING BACK WHEN YOU MEET ALL THE TIME AT WORK.

IT WOULDN'T BE ANY SURPRISE

YOU...

HOW DARE YOU SAY SUCH THINGS WHEN YOU'RE WITH ASAHINA. .

OOPS

WHAT?

H-HOW DID YOU FIND OUT?! WHO TOLD YOU SUCH A THING?!

WHO CARES HOW!

YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HE HAD BEEN TO THE SAME UNIVERSITY AND IT TURNS OUT YOU'VE BEEN DATING HIM!

THAT DAY WHEN YOU WERE LATE FOR THE DATE WITH ME, SOMETHING HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU IN THE COMPANY, RIGHT?!

..! OF COURSE NOT!

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!

WHO, ME?!

YOU'RE SUSPICIOUS! WHY ARE YOU GETTING SO WORKED UP IF YOU'RE INNOCENT!

I SAW HER! I SAW SHITARA-SAN ARRIVE AT MAMIYA ENTERPRISES YESTERDAY!

AND WHAT ABOUT YOU, HOKUTO?!

WHAT ARE YOU, A STALKER?! YOU'RE A CREEP! WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD GO SO FAR?!

I TOLD YOU, STOP TRYING TO FOOL ME!!

pant

pant

IT'S NOT LIKE ...

WITH YOU, HOKUTO

...!!

IT'S DIFFER-ENT WITH YOU AND SHITARA-SAN, RIGHT?

wipe

ASAHINA-SAN. .

WAS JUST THE FIRST GUY WHO EVER KISSED ME.

JUST ?!

SHOCK

UNLIKE ME, BEING A RELA-TIONSHIP WITH HER WAS CALM AND NOT BOTH-ERSOME AT ALL, RIGHT?

AND SHE'S SO BEAUTIFUL.

YOU'VE DONE WITH HER WHAT YOU DO WITH ME AND MORE, RIGHT?

IT MUST BE VERY HARD FOR YOU, RIGHT, HOKUTO?!

IT MUST BE SO BOTH-ERSOME BEING WITH A LOVE-NEWBIE LIKE ME.

OF COURSE!

SHE'S SO MUCH DIFFERENT, SO IT MUST BE GOOD TO BE WITH SOMEONE OF YOUR OWN LEVEL FROM TIME TO TIME.

WHILE I COULDN'T READ ONE ECONOMICS NEWSPAPER ARTICLE NO MATTER HOW MUCH I STUD-IED.

AND YOU TWO ARE EQUALS AT WORK, TOO.

SLAP

THAT'S ALL IN THE PAST.

DON'T DIG IT UP LIKE AN IDIOT.

I.

CUT IT OUT ALREADY

OR I'LL REALLY GET ANGRY

I KNOW!

I KNOW I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT!

WAAAH

I KNOW THAT YOU'VE HAD A PAST BEFORE YOU MET ME AND THAT CAN'T CHANGE.

I KNOW VERY WELL HOW SELFISH I—

I WANTED YOU TO BE ONLY MINE.

BUT I CAN'T HELP MYSELF!

I WANTED TO BE YOUR EVERYTHING.

Can't breathe!

HNNN? HNNNN NNNN!

HOKU ...

HN. .

NNNNN! NNNNN!

I SEE. SO HE GOT YOUR FIRST KISS.

HMPF.

BWAH!

I HAD NO IDEA WHAT TO DO THE FIRST TIME I LEARNED ABOUT ALL THIS, BUT I DECIDED TO KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT.

SO YOU THINK YOU'RE ALL IN THE CLEAR JUST BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T GET ANY MORE PHYSICAL THAN THAT? IDIOT!

JUST YOUR FIRST KISS?

THE PAST CANNOT BE CHANGED.

NO MATTER IF I KISS YOU A HUNDRED OR A THOUSAND TIMES MORE,

YOUR FIRST KISS WON'T COME BACK.

HOWEVER ..

KEEP IN MIND THAT...

I WILL SAY SUCH A DEADLY EMBARRASSING THING ONLY ONCE IN MY LIFE

EHM.. I...

I'M SORRY.

WHAT ARE YOU APOLOGIZING ABOUT?

DAMN. THE EMBARRASSMENT NEVER ENDS

AND THERE WERE ALL SORTS OF OTHER THINGS IN WHICH YOU WERE MY FIRST, SO..

SHOULDN'T THAT BE ENOUGH .?

I KNOW THE KISS CAN'T RETURN, BUT...

I GAVE MY VIRGINITY TO YOU, HOKUTO .

YOU'RE THE PARCEL I DEVELOPED MYSELF.

I GUESS.

DE- DEVELOPED ..?!

KYAAA! KYAA!

Cuddle

MORE LIKE "CULTIVATED," MAYBE? "RE-CLAIMED" ...?

As if in "reclaim a wasteland"..?

YOU WANTED TO BE MY EV-ERYTHING...

YOU SAY THE CUTEST THINGS.

Ken

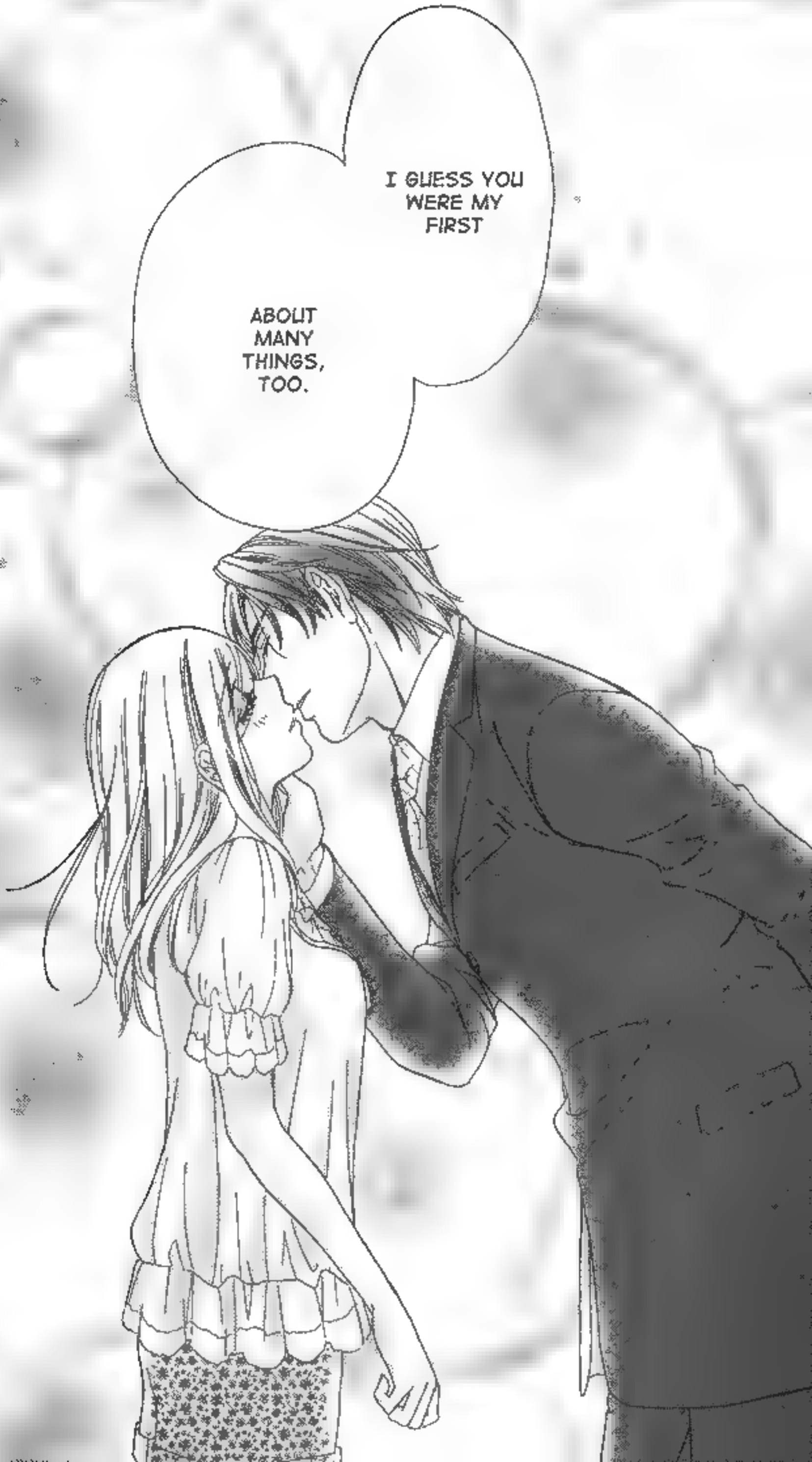
AND THE FIRST I COULD NEVER CONTROL.

AND THE FIRST TO MAKE ME SO HAPPY.

YOU'RE THE FIRST WHO'S EVER MADE ME SAY SUCH EM-BARRASSING THINGS

I GUESS YOU WERE MY FIRST

ABOUT MANY THINGS, TOO.



WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT ME AND HER?

SO?

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT... YES, I'LL HAVE TO TALK TO HER VERY SERIOUSLY.

HOKUTO ..

WHAT?

WHAT ?!

I LEARNED ABOUT YOU AND ASA-HINA FROM HER, TOO.

Not in so many words, but ..

SHITARA-SAN HER-SELF...

I'M SORRY

I WENT IN THE WAY OF YOUR WORK AGAIN. .

THAT'S FINE. I WASN'T WORKING.

WHAT?

YOUR BIRTH-DAY IS AP-PROACHING.

SO I WAS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING.

THEN WHY WERE YOU LYING TO ME?

WELL ...

AH, I REALLY WANTED TO KEEP IT A SECRET UNTIL I TOOK YOU THERE ..

"TAKE ME THERE" . ?! DID YOU BUY ME A TRIP?!

NO. .

BUT I COULDN'T FIND ANY-THING SUIT-ABLE THAT I LIKED

Ah...

AN ISLAND.

Islands

ALSO, THERE'S A REGULAR SHIP COMING IN AND MAIL DELIVERIES.

WELL, I SUPPOSE IT WON'T GO WITHOUT SOME REPAIRS AND REDECORATION, BUT ANYWAY...

YES ...?

BUT THE INFRASTRUCTURE IS ALL IN PLACE NO GAS, THOUGH .

SO THE OLD LADY IS LEAVING AND IT WILL BECOME AN UNINHABITED ISLAND

IT'S A TINY ISLAND TO THE SOUTH,

AND THERE WAS THIS OLD COUPLE LIVING THERE, BUT YOU SEE, THE HUSBAND DIED...

He lost me. What is he talking about?

SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

NOBODY WILL BOTHER US THERE UNLIKE THE LAST TIME WE WERE IN OKINAWA.

IT'LL BE AN ISLAND ONLY FOR YOU AND ME

WHEN WE RETIRE, WE CAN SPEND OUR DECLINING DAYS THERE. IT'S NOT SUCH A BAD DEAL, RIGHT?

Dumbfounded

Hokuto's face was saying "Surprised you, right?"

He was laughing like a naughty little boy.

EEEEEH? EEEEEEH!

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!

That was the first time I saw with such an innocent,

happy, child-like expression on his face.

YES?

I THOUGHT ABOUT IT. TELL ME WHAT YOU SAID YOU KNOW.

IT'S ME.

Back then,

I couldn't even imagine what was to come.

TELL ME ABOUT MAMIYA...

WHY DID SHE MARRY THAT PRESIDENT?

<28th Step We don't worry about each other's past... Do we?> *The End*

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Did you get the "development" joke? Eh?
What I meant was that we—
Nooo! Nooo! Nooo!

RAWR
Why won't you release the next chapter?!
W...
Can I help you?

What can I do to help?
I-b-but! I don't know how to edit or translate
Fan Girl
/

It's not like YOU helped out any.
We don't have enough translators or editors.
Stop yelling already.
!!!
...

Visit our website for details.
Find us some translators and editors and you'll have your next chapter.
http://www.aerandria.net

AERANDRIA

THE RABID SOULS BEHIND YOUR FAVORITE RELEASES!

Hapi Mari
Volume 07 Chapter 28

Lacaille :SCANNER
Mari :TRANSLATOR
Lacaille :PROOFREADER
Mya :EDITORS
Lacaille :QUALITY CHECK

See, Hokuto? You're a sadist! Stop slapping Chiwa! XD And stop pretending you're a masochist!

- Lacaille